



LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COMMISSION

What's Inside!

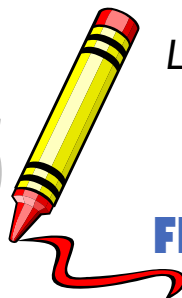
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A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana

LEEC NEWS

Louisiana's 11th Environmental Awareness

Student Art & Language Arts Contest



Theme

*Louisiana's Natural Resources:
What's Important to You?"*

Postmarked Deadline

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2013

Prizes awarded: First Place: \$200 Second Place: \$100 Third Place: \$75

Winning entries will be published in our 2014 calendar!

Winners only will be notified via e-mail no later than Wednesday, May 15th. The list of winners for all categories will be posted on the LEEC [website](#).

Download **official entry form and release** [HERE](#).

The entry form MUST accompany the entry and MUST be signed by the contestant and parent or guardian. Entries that do not comply with contest rules will be disqualified. For more information, contact Juliet Raffray, jraffray@wlf.la.gov.

SPONSORED BY:



EARTH DAY EVENTS

Louisiana Earth Day—April 21

Downtown Baton Rouge, Noon to 8:30 pm

Free Admission • Live music all day • Activities for all ages

Visit www.laearthday.org for more information.

Earth Day Network

This year's theme is "The Face of Climate Change". The Earth Day website offers a collection of resources including reading lists, bookmarks, posters, and educational activities. You can help the campaign by uploading a photo of how climate change is affecting you and your community. If you want to organize a local event, check out the toolkits and activity resources:

<http://www.earthday.org/2013/resources.html#activity-resources>



EVENTS

School Building Week—April 15–20

Created by the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI), School Building Week is dedicated to focusing on the importance of high performing, healthy, and sustainable school facilities for a quality learning environment. The highlight of the week is the announcement of the winners of the School of the Future Design Competition. [Click here.](#)

Go Coast: Louisiana's Lafourche Parish Premiers on WLAE-TV—Sunday, April 21, 8:30 PM

In this episode, *Go Coast's* Host Tom Gregory treks down Bayou Lafourche, "the longest street in the world" and rediscovers the people, the places and the culture of this Louisiana treasure. Tom paddles with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and uncovers the natural elegance and geographical significance of Bayou Lafourche. He also visits the past in Thibodaux, including *The Edward Douglass White House*, *Laurel Valley Village* and the *Dansereau House*. The rural heart of southeast Louisiana's Cajun Country comes alive with music of *Waylon Thibodeaux* at the Swamp Stomp and the Cajun Jam at the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center and with theatre at the Bayou Playhouse in Lockport. With all things Louisiana, there is food; glorious food from the "Miracles in Meat" at Bourgeois Meat Market to the taste experience at the Fremin's Restaurant to the gastronomic education Tom received from Randy Cheramie, the Executive Director at Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University. Tom's journey also includes an eye opening look at the crisis of coastal erosion as he tours the changing wetlands with Windell Curolle, the General Manager of the South Lafourche Levee District. This program is a celebration of people who have called this 100-mile plus bayou home for centuries and have carved out a way of life like no other along its banks. *The program's host, Tom Gregory, won an Emmy in the Best On-Camera Talent category for Performer/Narrator from the Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Go Coast: Louisiana also received a nomination for the Best Magazine Program. Additional Airings on WLAE –TV, Sunday April 28, May 5, 12, and 19th at 8:30 PM.* For more information on the Go Coast: Louisiana series, visit www.gocoast.tv.

National Healthy Schools Day—April 30

National Healthy Schools Day is coordinated by Healthy Schools Network in cooperation with US EPA and promotes the use of EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools guidance as well as other EPA environmental health guidelines and programs for schools and children's health. Register an activity at <http://www.nationalhealthyschoolsday.org/>.

WEBINARS

OneNOAA Science Seminars

All seminars are open to the public (unless otherwise indicated) and offer limited remote access on a first come first served basis. Please check the [OneNOAA Science Seminars](#) web page for the most updated seminar information or contact Hernan Garcia, Hernan.Garcia@noaa.gov.

[Changes Over Time in the Size and Age of Chinook Salmon Caught in Lower Columbia River Fisheries](#)

April 18, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA [NWFSC Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA 98112)

[Fish Sex! How, Where, and When They Do It \(and When They Don't Have To\)](#) [new]

April 18, 2013; 12:00-12:30 Eastern Time ; NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) 2nd Floor Library

[The Optimal Size of a Marine Protected Area \(MPA\): A BIOECONOMIC MODEL Integrated with "SASI" SYSTEM, Case of Eastern Indonesia](#) [new]

April 18, 2013; 12:00-12:30 Eastern Time ; NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) 2nd Floor Library

[Data Assimilation Progress and Plans at ECMWF](#)

April 19, 2013; 14:00-15:00 Eastern Time; NOAA CWCP Conference Center (College Park, MD)

[The Spatial Economics Toolbox for Fisheries \(FishSET\): A New Tool to Improve Fisheries Management](#)

April 25, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA [NWFSC Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA 98112)

Announcement of Sensible Step Webinar Series—April 30

The Office of Children's Health Protection and Regions 8 and 10's Schools Coordinators will announce the launch of the Sensible Steps Webinar Series (see attached draft flyer, internal). Each webinar in the series will be coordinated by representatives from that program. In most cases, the representatives will come from Headquarters, but if you have ideas for topics covered under your program, please contact Stacy Murphy, EPA Region 6 Schools Coordinator, at murphy.stacy@epa.gov and she will get you linked into the planning process. More information, including the official announcement, will be provided on April 30th.

WORKSHOPS

Ranchers, Farmers, Landowners—Save the Date!—Grazing Native Grasses Workshop

Friday April 26, 2013, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.; Optional Field Trip 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

ULL-Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology, 703 Thoroughbred Dr., Lafayette, LA

Network with other ag producers and learn about...Conservation Opportunities, Grazing Options, Soil Health, Native Grasses (see attached agenda). Lunch Provided; \$25 Registration before April 26; \$30 Registration at the Door

To register, call (318) 240-0107 or email angie@acadianarcd.com. If requested, reasonable accommodation will be provided for individuals with disabilities. To request accommodation, please call (318) 240-0107 prior to the meeting. Partners: Acadiana RC&D, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana Native Plant Initiative, McNeese State University, ULL Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology.

Scope-On-A-Rope Teacher Workshop

Are you in need of an educational tool that captures your students' attention and promotes learning at all levels? Then come join us at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans on **April 27th from 9 am-noon** to learn about LSU's Scope-on-a-Rope (SOAR) Program and to become certified to borrow a SOAR for use in your classroom. All participants will also receive a set of activities with connections to the Next Generation Science Standards for grades K-5. The SOAR is a hand-held microscope that connects to an ordinary television, projector, or active board, allowing all your students to see focused, magnified images instantly! The Audubon Aquarium of the Americas is proud to be a partner with LSU to allow New Orleans area teachers access to hands-on SOAR kits. The kits contain a Scope-On-A-Rope as well as biofacts (shark skin, shells, feathers, etc.) and activity ideas for you to explore with the SOAR. Teachers who become certified to use the SOAR can check out a kit from the Aquarium for use with their students! Registration and \$10 fee is required in advance to reserve your place in the workshop. To register, contact Tricia LeBlanc at tleblanc@auduboninstitute.org.

Louisiana Black Bear Workshop in Rapides Parish—May 7

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) will present an educational workshop on Louisiana black bears on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. in Rapides Parish. The workshop will be held at the Deville Fire District 6 Training Center, also known as the Deville Community Multi-Use Building, located at 1244 Hwy.115 Deville, LA 71328. This is a free, wildlife education event that is open to the public. Black bears are becoming increasingly common in central Louisiana and this workshop will present information about living near and hunting within habitat that includes black bears. Topics will include bear biology/ecology, current and future management plans, how to avoid a bear encounter, and what to do if you encounter a black bear. Speakers will include Maria Davidson, LDWF Large Carnivore Program manager, and other regional Wildlife Division biologists. LDWF is charged with managing and protecting Louisiana's abundant natural resources. For more information, visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ldwfffb, or follow on Twitter @LDWF. For more information, contact David Hayden at 318-487-5885 or dhayden@wlf.la.gov.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Measuring Environmental Education Outcomes (MEE0)

Environmental educators and program leaders are invited to join this project-based online learning community in May-October 2013, by EECapacity. This select group of 25 educators will work together to improve the way we measure different outcomes of EE programs. **Application deadline: May 1, 2013.**

Details: <http://civicecology.org/doc/2013-MEE0.pdf>.

Application form: <http://tinyurl.com/MEE0-application>

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Afterschool STEM Impact Awards

The Afterschool Alliance and the Noyce Foundation invite applications for one of two \$10,000 Afterschool STEM Impact Awards! The Afterschool STEM Impact Awards will recognize programs that are clearly demonstrating their impact on participants. Such programs highlight the power of afterschool programs as key partners in STEM education reform and can also serve as best-practice models. In addition to the cash award, winners will be promoted nationally through a special series of Afterschool Alliance issue briefs, invited to participate in webinars, co-present at national and state conferences, and generally highlighted as model programs. **Deadline: May 15, 2013.**

Apply: <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/STEM-impactawards.cfm>

Nominations Now Open for the 2014 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM)

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) seek nominations of individuals and organizations that have demonstrated at least five years of excellence in mentoring students, trainees, and/or early career scientists and engineers from groups that are underrepresented in STEM, including women, people with disabilities, underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities, as well as individuals from low socio-economic backgrounds and some geographic regions (such as urban and rural regions). PAESMEM awardees receive a \$10,000 honorary Presidential award and are invited to participate in recognition events and meetings with STEM policy leaders in Washington, D.C.

Nominations, including self-nominations, are invited for Individual and Organizational PAESMEM awards:

- **Individual** PAESMEM awards recognize exceptional individual mentors who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents in industry, academia, primary and secondary education, military and government, non-profit organizations, and foundations.
- **Organizational** PAESMEM awards recognize organizations that demonstrate exceptional mentoring. Organizations must be affiliated with a U.S. corporation, educational institution or agency, military or government agency, non-profit organization, or foundation.

Please review the [call for nominations](#) for complete instructions on preparing and submitting nomination materials. **PAESMEM nomination materials due June 5, 2013**

PAESMEM Webinar on preparing and submitting nomination materials April 24, 2013 at 3 PM EDT [Click here to register](#)

Attention corporations, agencies, organizations, foundations, and professional societies: NSF will co-host a targeted PAESMEM webinar with you for your employees and/or organizational members to learn more about eligibility and how to prepare the nomination materials. Please contact PAESMEM@nsf.gov for more information and availability.

Contact PAESMEM@nsf.gov or visit www.nsf.gov/PAESMEM for more information about the PAESMEM program and instructions on preparing and submitting nomination materials.

RESOURCES

Updated Resources from the American Association of School Administrators (AASA)

AASA began its work on healthy school environments and indoor air quality in 1992 and continues to work with school districts across the nation to elevate the importance of a healthy school environment. Take a virtual classroom and cafeteria tours (scroll over the white circles to review the guidance) and then quiz yourself: <http://www.aasa.org/healthyschoolenvironments.aspx>

Bayou Teche Journal in English, Français, Deutsch, Español:

The April/May issue of the *Bayou Teche Journal*, a free newsletter for paddlers, bikers, birders, adventurers, eco-tourists and outdoors enthusiasts is attached. Louisiana is truly a sportsmen's paradise but within the state the Bayou Teche corridor is unique and special. Come on out and enjoy the great outdoors this region has to offer: BayouTecheExperience.com

April Newsletter from the LSTA/NSTA Science Matters Network

Please click link to view attachment: [E-Blast 1 April 2013.doc](#)

LAGNIAPPE

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Released

NSTA welcomes the final version of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The standards are now available at www.nextgenscience.org. The new standards establish learning expectations in science for K–12 students combining three important dimensions—science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts. NGSS provides a cohesive approach to science instruction that will significantly change the way science is taught and learned. Twenty-six states led the development of NGSS in a process managed by Achieve. The 41-member writing team included many classroom teachers. The standards are based on the Framework for K–12 Science Education from the National Research Council (NRC). Achieve also partnered with NSTA, NRC, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the standards' development.

Support the Whooping Cranes

The LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is working cooperatively with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Geological Survey, the International Crane Foundation and the LA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit to restore the whooping crane within Louisiana. You can help support their efforts with the purchase of this limited edition print *Taking Flight* by local artist, R.C. Davis. Order online at: <http://www.lawff.org/>.

For more information: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/rc-davis-painting-taking-flight



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Employment Opportunity at CRCL - Seeking a Volunteer Coordinator for our Restoration Program

CRCL is seeking a passionate, motivated, and organized individual for the position of Volunteer Coordinator. This person will recruit and lead volunteers on multiple on-going volunteer-based coastal restoration projects, identify project sites, coordinate with project partners, and assist with program promotion. The Volunteer Coordinator must be an innovative and outgoing team player able to work with numerous partners, federal and state agencies and volunteers. [Click here for more information.](#)

Audubon Zoo Summer Camp

Audubon Zoo is seeking qualified teachers to serve as Head Zoo Camp Counselors for Summer 2013. Click here to see [application materials](#). Learn more about Audubon Zoo's Summer Camp Program online at auduboninstitute.org. For more information, contact: Laura Grenda at 504-212-5357, lgrenda@auduboninstitute.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed to Help Stabilize Newly Created Marsh near Lafitte

CRCL, Ducks Unlimited and ConocoPhillips are partnering on an exciting restoration project near Lafitte, LA. Volunteers are needed to plant 7,000 marsh plants, which will assist in stabilizing sediment placed in a recent marsh creation project. Not only will these plants help fight erosion, they will also create wildlife habitat, increase species diversity and provide a seed source for natural regeneration. This project is not for those afraid of a little mud or a little fun. [Join us by signing up here.](#)

Find out about wetland outreach activities including symposiums, conferences, meetings, educational opportunities, volunteer opportunities, & related support material at the **Louisiana Unified Coastal Community Calendar** at <http://lacoast.gov/calendar/>

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LouisianaEnvironmentalEducationCommission